

Message Text

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51

ACTION CU-04

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----- 121640

R 111126Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6050

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1986

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJ: JAZZ IN DZERZHINSKIY SQUARE

USIA ACTION FOR ICS, IMV - INFO FOR IEE, IBS;
STATE FOR CU/EE AND CU/SES

1. IN CENTRAL LECTURE HALL RECENTLY, UNDER RED BANNER "PROMOTE LENINISM", AN OVERFLOW CROWD OF 1,000 CHEERED, LAUGHED, AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPLAUDED A THREE HOUR MIXED MEDIA LECTURE ON "THE GOLDEN AGE OF JAZZ" WHICH FEATURED SLIDES OF HIGH-STEPPING NEW ORLEANS FUNERAL MARCHERS, USIS FILMS OF MAHALIA JACKSON AND LOUIS ARMSTRONG, TAPES RECORDED FROM VOA OR FROM FRIENDS' RECORDS, COMMENTARY BY LEONID PEREVERTSEV, A MOSCOW JAZZ AFFICIANADO, AND A LIVE WIND-UP BY A SOVIET COMBO.

2. LECTURE WAS FIRST IN MONTHLY "ZNANIYE" SOCIETY SERIES ON JAZZ BY PEREVERTSEV, WHO DEVELOPED ENTHUSIASM FOR JAZZ AS VOA LISTENER IN 1950'S AND IS NOW PERHAPS USSR'S MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE CRITIC AND OCCASIONAL WRITER ON AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC. FEBRUARY LECTURE IS ON GEORGE GERSHWIN, UTILIZING MATERIAL USIA SENT FOR EMBASSY'S RECENT GERSHWIN FESTIVAL. FUTURE TOPICS: "THE SWING ERA", "CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN JAZZ", "EUROPEAN COMPOSERS INFLUENCED BY JAZZ", "INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVALS", AND "THE PHENOMENON OF POP MUSIC."

3. SRO AUDIENCE AT FIRST LECTURE WAS SERIOUS, APPARENTLY EDUCATED AND WELL-DRESSED GROUP OF MEN AND WOMEN WITH AVERAGE
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AGE BETWEEN 25 AND 35, WITH SCATTERING OF WHITE BEARDS AND

YOUTH. SMALL NUMBER OF YOUTH PERHAPS DUE TO DIFFICULTY
GETTING TICKETS--SERIES SOLD OUT WEEKS BEFORE. SIDEWALK
CROWD ON DZERZHINSKIY SQUARE SOUTH "EXTRAS" FROM LUCKY TICKET
HOLDERS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ICS, IMV TO ADVISE EMBASSY ON USEFUL
MATERIAL FOR FUTURE TOPICS, ESPECIALLY FILMS, SLIDES, TAPES.
CAUTION: VOA SHOULD NOT RPT NOT COMMENT ON SERIES.
DUBS

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NNN

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